



WINTER 2009

Tweedsmuir Tidings

Tweedsmuir Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Moderator on the move!

Since his induction as the 135th Moderator in June, our own Rev. Harvey Self has been visiting churches, schools, and historical sites connected to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. As well, he has had the opportunity to connect with the various ministry divisions of the Armed forces at several Canadian Forces Bases.

Rev. Self describes this time as an "enjoyable challenge". He has done an extensive amount of travel - most often by car but occasionally by train or plane, during the week as well as weekends.

The trade-off to this extremely demanding and time-consuming activity has been the opportunity to meet a wide variety of Presbyterians and experience the all-embracing diversity of our church - from those reaching out healing hands to aboriginal peoples, to intensely involved chaplains ministering to the forces here and in Afghanistan and the exhilarating spirit of joyful worship found in Presbyterian Canadian youth groups as well as many individual church congregations living and worshipping in their own churches and communities throughout Canada.

Details of his experiences have can be found in the Presbyterian Record and on the Record's website: <http://www.presbyterianrecord.ca/articles/columns/fromthemoderator/>.

Harvey has been very grateful to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity, and wanted to recognize the many contributions that are being made on a daily basis from members of this congregation that have allowed him the freedom to travel throughout Canada knowing that the congregation at Tweedsmuir is in capable hands.

While visiting ministers (including Rev. Allyson Voo, our past Associate) have tended to our spiritual needs during Sunday service, many members of Tweedsmuir have been working very hard to keep the church running smoothly in Harvey's absence.

Harvey wishes to thank Marjorie MacDonald and Jane Smith, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Session, for organizing the visiting ministers and for their help each Sunday in the service.

A very special thank you is extended to Joan Elchuk, who works with the visiting ministers (even choosing the

hymns for some of them) and whose direction keeps the services running seamlessly.

Another person Harvey wishes to thank is Dawn-Marie Martin, the church secretary, who is in the office throughout the week helping all who need her. Her many contributions are much appreciated.

Also, Linda Stover and Wil and Marie McGilvery have worked tirelessly planning and executing the trip to the Dominican Republic for Riverforce.

These are all areas in which Harvey would normally participate and he thanks everyone for their wonderful contributions.

Harvey also recognizes that there are many others who are quietly going about helping behind the scenes. To these people, Harvey sends a resounding "thank you"!

Finally, there is one person in particular Harvey would like to thank - his wife, Jayne Self.

Being a minister's wife presents unique blessings and challenges that can be overwhelming at times and, while a Minister goes through extensive training, there is no manual for a Minister's wife and especially not the "Moderator's wife".

While Harvey has been tied up with meetings, trips and travelling, his wife Jayne has worked tirelessly supporting him and their family as well as helping in so many areas at the church. Jayne has provided much needed support to grieving or struggling families and individuals and diligently liaised between Harvey and the congregation. Her efforts and assistance are extensive and Harvey wanted to take this opportunity to thank Jayne for her exceptional support and contributions.

As a church, we are truly fortunate to have so many willing members whose countless contributions keep everything running well while Harvey is fulfilling his responsibilities as Moderator.

Christmas Food Drive

During this Christmas season, the Care Committee will be collecting food and toys for those less fortunate.



Everything collected will be donated to the Salvation Army's Food and Toy Drive. Please do your part to help those less fortunate.

Bonnie Thompson Memorial Library

Jayne's Picks

Jayne Self highlights some Canadian Christian Authors from our library. Check them out for some inspirational reading over the winter!

- A Kirk For The Town - William Bothwell
- Walking Towards Hope - Paul Beckingham *
- The Rest of God - Mark Buchanan **
- When Life Hurts - Brian Stiller
- By Design or By Chance - Denyse O'Leary *
- A Bridge To The Mountain - Ray Wiseman
- The Weeping Chamber - Sigmund Brouwer
- Above The Stars - Keith Clemons *
- Sadie's Song - Linda Hall **
- Shaded Light - NJ Lindquist *
- When The Heart Calls - Janette Oke

* Books have received national awards by The Word Guild
** Received Canadian and international awards

We are completing our bi-annual library inventory. If you have any forgotten library books at home, please return them. Thank you!



Prayer group
Fridays, 1 pm



In Memoriam

We remember the following Members and Adherents of Tweedsmuir who passed away during 2009.

Katy Wymant,
(daughter of Laurence and Margot)

Robert Kenneth Rea

Charlotte Reid

John David Steinacker

Elizabeth Iris Watson,
(mother of Jane Aultman)

Adam Densmore

Dorothy Grossart

Susanna Langman

Our sympathy goes out to their families and to all the members of our church who lost loved ones this year.



*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

WMS Women's Missionary Society

Evangel Hall Once again, this group will be collecting items in December for Evangel Hall. This includes warm hats, mitts, scarves, and socks. Some of these do not have to be new, please check your closets for any items that are gently used. Or you can see their website for urgently needed items.

<http://www.evangelhall.ca/urgent.php>

In the winter months, Evangel hall goes through 1,000 socks per month.

Thanks to your generosity, we have already taken down a car full of items for them and will be going down to their location again in late December.

Pneumonia prevention vests were sent to India at the end of October. In all, 150 vests were created by knitters in the church. Thank you to all the knitters who contributed these vests. They are very much appreciated. These are given to children to help prevent respiratory disorders.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Last year we gave out eleven prayer shawls. If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact a member of the WMS. These shawls are made for people who are suffering - whether it is from illness, bereavement or a crisis in their life. If you know of someone who you would like to see receive a prayer shawl, please speak with Rev. Self or a member of session.

Guest Speakers We were very grateful to have two very interesting guest speakers visit us this fall. Jayne Self spoke on her trip to Ghana with Harvey and also Harvey spoke on his visits to the Canadian Forces Bases. Both were very interesting and informative. Thank you to Jayne and Harvey.



Roast Beef Supper

The Board of Managers sends a huge

Thank you!

to all who helped out at the annual Roast Beef Supper in October. It was a great success!

ELDERS

Elders Workshop - On November 7th, several elders attended a seminar of interactive workshops in Campbellville, run by the Brampton Presbytery. The theme of the workshop was serving the church with our gifts.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If someone's gift is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is leadership, let them govern diligently.

Romans 12 6-8

Please think on the different ways you can serve the church.



This year's Bazaar will be on Nov. 28th!

Mark your calendar!

Booths include: Baked Goods, Preserves, Canned Goods, Frozen Pies, Craft Items, Sewing, Knitting and Christmas Decorations, Cookies and Squares, Coffee and Muffins

All proceeds from the bazaar will go to the church.

If you would like to donate any items or are available to help, please contact one of the Bazaar convenors, Bev Fleming, 519-942-0200 or Jane Smith, 519-940-8637

If you would like to help with or donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Marjorie MacDonald, 519-941-8448



Tweedsmuir Ladies Fellowship Group

Christmas Dinner

In December, this group invites all the ladies of the church to a sit down, catered dinner at the church.

The date will be announced shortly.

If you are interested in joining the Tweedsmuir Ladies Fellowship Group, please contact Phyllis Robertson, 519-941-4181 or come to the Tweedsmuir Room on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.



Adult Choir – Special musical selections will be performed by the choir on Sunday, December 13th during the Sunday service in celebration of Christmas.

Praise Team – Have you been enjoying the praise team this fall? They have introduced us to some wonderful new pieces and brought some old favourites back!

Christmas Service?

It was a bitterly cold Christmas morning after a very heavy fall of snow and only one farmer and the minister managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.

"Well," said the clergyman. "I guess there's no point in having a service today."

"That's not how I see it," said the farmer. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it."

Riverforce

The youth of Tweedsmuir continue with their two exciting initiatives to enhance the leadership role of our youth in bringing the message of God's love to others.

"Youth for Christ" project – Outreach in our community

The Riverforce team is continuing their work toward establishing a community of young praying people by starting prayer initiatives, teaching on prayer and organizing praying events. Look to hear from Riverforce in January as one of the praying events will be introduced.

They are also working with other 'YouthNet' groups in town to build a praying community.

"Youth Unlimited" project – Outreach in the world

From November 22-29/09, Linda Stover, Wil and Marie McGilvery, Brandon and Leanne McGilvery, Lindsay McLean and Jonathan Self, along with 25 young people from Newmarket head to the Dominican Republic (close to the Haiti border) where many Haitian refugee families have escaped and now reside in poverty. Their team will be assisting a team of doctors and nurses.

As a Christian Ministry they will conduct Vacation Bible School activities for the children while families are waiting for medical treatment.

They have taken face cloths, shoes and suitcases to give to the people there.

On Sunday, November 8th, they were commissioned in the church and thanked the congregation for their support.

Bible Study

Women's group – Wednesdays, 9:45 am, led by Jayne Self.

Men's group – Wednesdays, 8 am and 7 pm, led by Stan Elliotson (8 am) and Wil McGilvery (7 pm).



Did you know...?

The Twelve Days of Christmas refers to the twelve days between the Christmas Day (December 25) and the Feast of Epiphany (January 6).

Tradition has it that this is the time taken by the Three Wise Men (the Magi) to reach Bethlehem to see the babe in the manger, Jesus.

Peace on Earth - Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Peace with God - Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Emmanuel - Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.



Are you having a Blue Christmas?



The holiday season's emphasis on happiness and good cheer often makes people who are dealing with heartbreak feel even worse.

Recognizing that this is not a season of happiness for everyone, some churches now offer "Blue Christmas" services over the Christmas season to give people the chance to gather together, have the opportunity to acknowledge the bleak feelings we can have at Christmas, the reasons for them and the choice to offer them to God. These services give people a chance to honestly express their pain.

We often feel we need permission to hurt, permission to cry out to God and wonder where He is and permission to speak our feelings. Those very real feelings need to be acknowledged.

We need to turn to God, asking Him to help us, searching for Him with our heart, mind and soul.

Finally, we need to come back to the place of knowing that God has been good, God's love is unfailing, and God will meet us wherever we are. This expression of faith even in the midst of our pain puts us on the path of healing.

You are invited to reflect on your grief, loneliness and sadness and, in the midst of your pain, discover Christ in your life. Discover He is with you, just as He promised.

We pray that you feel His powerful loving presence and we hope that you will find comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

If you feel that you are really struggling emotionally and you know it's more than a mild case of the holiday blues, remember, you do not have to suffer alone. Please reach out to your minister, doctor or health care provider. Caitlin Smith

There will be a **"Grief & Christmas"** service held at Tweedsmuir on Tuesday, December 1st at 7 pm. For more information, please contact Diane Lawson at 519-938-7355. All are welcome.



Tweedsmuir Tidings Winter 2009 - edited by Caitlin Smith, with roving reporter, Jane Smith.

If you have something you would like included in the March newsletter, please let us know. If you would like to receive future newsletters by email, there will be a sign-up sheet made available in the church office. If you are able, please do your part to cut down on our costs.

People in the News!

Judy Bryan– Judy's sons, Glenn and Graham, were on the Junior A Northmen Lacrosse Club. In the season 2008 - 2009, their team was the Ontario and Canadian Junior A Lacrosse Champions. Congratulations to the Captain, Glenn Bryan and his teammate and brother, Graham!

A Time to Remember - Present at the Remembrance Concert at the New Hope Community Church were master of ceremonies, Harvey Self, and several church members who play in the Orangeville Community Band. This great concert was much appreciated by those who attended.

"Christmas In The Park" - Tweedsmuir will once again support the Orangeville Optimist Club's popular "Christmas in the Park" in Kay Cee Gardens for most of December, during the evening hours, 7-10 p.m.



Men's Breakfast

Enjoy connecting with other Christian men with guest speakers, good food and good fun!

Check the calendar for dates.



Calendar

November

- Nov. 28 – Christmas Bazaar, 9 am to 1 pm
- Nov. 29 – First Sunday in Advent

December

- Dec. 1 – "Grief & Christmas" Service, 7 pm
- Dec. 6 – Holy Communion
- Young people speaking on their trip to Dominican Republic during the service
- "Old Fashioned Christmas" Potluck supper and fun making ornaments organized by Jayne Self, 4:30 to 7 pm
- Dec. 13 – Choir performing Christmas Music
- Dec. 20 – Christmas Sunday Service
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm

2010

- Jan. 23 – Robbie Burns Dinner
- Feb. – Church membership classes for 6 weeks
- Feb. 21 – 1st Sunday of Lent
- "Lenten Lunches" each Wednesday during Lent at Tweedsmuir Church
- Mar. 5 – World Day of Prayer - service to be held at Tweedsmuir
- Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday
- April 2 – Good Friday
- April 4 – Easter Sunday